GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
POWER THEFTS
P.R. KHUTE;RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual loss suffered by the Government due to power thefts in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have recently reviewed the problem of power thefts in depth;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by various State Electricity Boards and results achieved so far;

(e) the details of those State Electricity Boards which have failed in checking power thefts particularly by the industrial consumers;

(f) whether the Government have consulted the SEBs to tackle this problem;
(g) if so, the details thereof; and
(h) if not, the policy of the Government to prevent power thefts completely?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OSTARRED QUESTION NO. 109 TO BE ANSWERED IN TI LOK SABHA ON 27.11.2000 REGARDING POWER THEFTS.

(a) to (c): A statement showing the Transmission and Distribution losses (T&D losses) State-wise as reported by the State Power Utilities (including commercial losses due to theft) during the period 1995-98 is given in the Statement at Annex.

The losses due to theft of Power incurred by the State PowerUtilities are not being assessed separately. However, the experience of States which have unbundled and restructured their operations (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka) indicates that the T and D losses (including commercial losses due to theft) are in the range of 40-50 percent. A rough estimate indicates that the annual losses sustained by Power Utilities due to theft and pilferage are in the rangeof Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 crores.

Transmission and distribution losses are of two types: technical and non-technical. Technical losses take place due to energy dissipation in the conductors and equipment used for transmission, transformation and distribution of power. Commercial losses are caused due to pilferage, use of defective meters, errors in meter reading and due to errors in estimating unmetered supply of energy.

(d) to (g): The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued guidelines to adopt the following measures for reducing the T&D losses:

i. Strengthening/improvement of the distribution system;

ii. Reducing LT line length by relocation of distribution sub-stations/ installation of additional sub-stations;

iii. Formulation of comprehensive system improvement schemes;

iv. Setting up of vigilance squads to check and prevent pilferage of energy;

v. Imposition of severe penalties for tampering with meter seals;

vi. Fixing responsibilities on Executive Engineers responsible fordistribution in a specified geographical area for accounting energy received and energy billed;

vii. Installation of tamper-proof meters; and

viii. Formulating and implementing a time-bound Action Plan for checking the meters and replacing defective meters.

The measures to be adopted for reducing the T&D losses(including commercial losses) was discussed in the `Conference of Power Ministers` held on 26th February, 2000 and it was unanimously resolved that the State/UT Governments would adopt the following measures:

i. Introducing of energy audit at all levels.

ii. 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001 in a phased manner. Under Phase-I of the Programme, metering upto 11 KV feeder and HT consumers will be completed by March, 2001 and under Phase-II of the programme metering upto consumer level will be completed by December, 2001.

iii. Reduction and elimination of power thefts within a specified time frame.

iv. Strengthening and upgrading of the sub-transmission and distribution system utilizing the funds to be available under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP).

With the implementation of these measures, it will be possible for the State Power Utilities to substantially reduce the T&D losses, including losses due to theft and pilferage.

(h): The State Governments/State Power Utilities have to enforce the legal provisions which are already available and impose stringent punishment to those who indulge in theft and pilferage of electricity. Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The State Governments/State Power Utilities also have to establish a strong enforcement machinery and take advantage of the legal enablement to curb theft of electricity.

ANNEX

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STATEMENT LAID IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESATION NO. 109 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 27.11.2000.

PERCENTAGE TRANSFORMATION, TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION LISSES (INCLUDING COMMERCIAL LOOSES SUCH AS PILFERAGE ETC) IN SEBs/EDs.

Region	SEBs/EDs.	95-96	96-97	97-98
NORTHERN	1.Haryana	32.39	32.77	33.04#
REGION	2.H.P.	16.09	18.02	19.20
	3.J&K	47.52	48.27	47.48$
	4. Punjab	18.49	19.10	17.90
	5. Rajasthan	29.27	26.28	26.46
	6. Uttar Pradesh	21.84	24.84	25.00
	7. Chandigarh	33.72	21.88	14.95
	8.DVB(Delhi)	48.57	49.08	46.86#
WESTERN	1. Gujarat	20.08	17.14	19.06
REGION	2.M.P.	17.84	19.24	19.08
	3. Maharashtra	16.95	16.55	17.73
	4. D & N Haveli	9.31	8.80	NA
	5. Goa	26.06	23.50	23.39
	6. Daman & Diu	12.80	8.15	11.27
SOUTHERN	1.Andhra Pradesh	19.34	33.19	31.76
REGION	2.Kaarnataka	19.06	18.73	18.56
	3. Keraka	21.12	20.59	17.87
	4.Tamil Nadu	16.19	17.65	17.00
	5.Lakshadweep	17.23	15.11	15.83
	6.Pondicherry	16.54	17.38	13.79
EASTERN	1. Bihar	15.91	25.31	25.41
REGION	2.Orissa (GRIDCO)	24.17	50.15	NA
	3.Sikkim	16.47	29.24	20.13
	4. West Bengal	19.26	18.01	20.34
	5. A & N ISLS	19.25	19.15	20.51
NORTH-	1. Assam	26.91	25.97	30.05
EASTERN	2. Manipur	24.85	22.95	21.50$
REGION	3. Mehgalaya	12.55	19.75	17.93
	4. Nagaland	35.17	26.81	29.50$
	5.Tripura	30.86	30.11	29.75
	6. Arunachal P.	37.12	32.62	30.99$
	7. Mizoram	25.18	34.35	47.00$
ALL INDIA UTILITIES		22.27	24.53	24.44

? Source: DMLF Division, Central Electricity Authority (General Review) Data is tentative as reported by SEBs/EDs.
? # Computed Figures $ As reported in the Annual Plan Resources Paper

submitted to Planning Commission
NA Information not yet furnished by the SEB/ED